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**SCAG OFFICIALS RECEIVE NATIONAL HONORS  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN REGIONAL PLANNING**

**Outstanding Regional Efforts By Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge, Former Brea Councilwoman Bev Perry Honored By National Association of Regional Councils**

**MONTEREY, CALIF.** – Current and former members of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) leadership were honored last night for their outstanding achievements at the National Association of Regional Councils' (NARC) 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge and former SCAG president and Brea City Councilwoman Bev Perry received leadership awards for their commitment to planning for the future of the Southern California region amidst the challenges presented by population growth.

Mayor Loveridge received the Tom Bradley Award, which recognizes outstanding leadership in advocating regional concepts, approaches and programs at all levels of government. Throughout his 26-year tenure as a local elected official, Loveridge has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to improving the future of Southern California's transportation network, addressing its air quality challenges and preserving its preferred quality of life.

Loveridge has served as Riverside's mayor since 1994 and as a councilmember for 14 years. He also served as chair of the city's Environmental Protection Commission for four years. As a member of the SCAG Regional Council since 1995, Loveridge's leadership was instrumental in developing SCAG's State of the Region Report, an annual report card to gauge the region's progress in such critical areas as transportation, employment, income, housing, air quality, safety and education. Loveridge is also the immediate past president of the League of California Cities, where he was played a key role in working closely with Governor Schwarzenegger's administration to preserve local government funding in the midst of a state and local funding crisis.

"Regional cooperation and planning are essential at a time when our housing capacity and transportation systems are so severely tested," said Mayor Loveridge. "Elected leaders are increasingly recognizing that these problems extend beyond city and county limits, making it imperative that we work together as regions to improve our collective quality of life."

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Former SCAG president and Brea City Councilwoman Bev Perry received the John Bosley Award, which recognizes outstanding service exhibited by an individual to advance the success of the regional community. First elected to the Brea City Council in 1992, Perry quickly became an active member of the League of California Cities, the Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG), the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and SCAG. Recognizing the important roles these regional organizations play in addressing issues beyond the purview of her city, she quickly assumed leadership positions with each organization.

In 2003, Perry was elected to serve as president of SCAG, and under her leadership, SCAG chartered a new course for planning Southern California's future. Recognizing the indisputable relationships between land use and transportation planning, SCAG embarked on a groundbreaking growth visioning initiative known as *Southern California Compass*. This was the largest effort ever undertaken by a metropolitan region to create a vision for how it wants to prepare for its future. It is also the *only* regional plan for accommodating future growth in Southern California.

"The most effective way to ensure successful regional planning is to involve everyone from the grassroots level on up," stated Perry. "When residents, leaders and communities work together – both internally and across city or county lines – we can find lasting solutions that will improve the Southern California we leave to our children."

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 187 cities and more than seventeen million residents. Now celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the region, SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable, sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, go to the SCAG Web site at [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).

NARC is the country's preeminent organization representing regional councils of government and metropolitan planning organizations, such as SCAG. NARC fosters cooperation and the building of regional communities through training, advocacy, technical assistance and policy dialogue. NARC's members include public, private, academic, nonprofit, and civic regional organizations as part of its effort to engage the regional community in achieving excellence.